

Miles seals it for Blues

By MICHAEL KNOX
Wycombe 3, Harrow 2

WYCOMBE extended their unbeaten home league run to nine games with a scrambling victory over Harrow Borough at a saturated Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

Not since the opening day of the season have the Blues lost at home and this record was never in danger on Tuesday, although the Blues did go perilously close to frittering away a two goal advantage.

Leading 2-0 at half time, Wycombe completely lost their way in the second half and in the end had to be thankful to a goal by substitute Paul Miles for securing their victory.

Manager Mike Keen made one change from the side that drew 1-1 with Enfield the previous Saturday, new signing Ken Wilson coming in for Keith Mead. Wilson a 24 year old winger from Hounslow, looked a promising player, although having a quiet game.

Slippery

Wycombe started strongly and nearly went ahead inside the first minute, when Steve Hardwick's back header from a corner sped dangerously across the face of the goal.

Heavy rain all day made the pitch distinctly slippery and Wycombe forward Gary Toll appeared to welcome the extra 'give' in the ground, to produce probably his best performance of the season.

It was Toll who helped Wanderers take the lead after 25 minutes. He did well to win an aerial challenge inside the penalty area and the ball fell conveniently to Steve Long, whose close range shot took a deflection past goalkeeper Les Currell.

Wanderers went further ahead ten minutes later, when Terry Glynn, who caused panic in the Harrow defence every time he gained possession, was brought down just inside the penalty area by Currell.

The initial pass that put Glynn in the clear came from Wilson and the goalkeeper had no option but to take drastic action.

In the continued absence of regular penalty taker Howard Kennedy and after Steve Hardwick's failure against Hungerford, George Borg took over the duties.

First goal

Now, full-back Borg is a wholehearted player, who likes to give the ball a thump. He did precisely that, to put Wanderers two ahead with his first ever goal for the club.

With this advantage Wycombe should have gone to town in the second half. But, probably trying to conserve their energy for later in the week, they eased off and almost paid the penalty.

The match went to sleep for 25 minutes — always a dangerous sign — and Wycombe's lead was cut 19 minutes from the end.

Hardwick, who is prone to casual lapses when things are going well, played a very loose back pass. It was intercepted by Cliff Rapley, who beat Gary Lester from the edge of the penalty area with a powerful drive.

Miles came on for Toll in the 82nd minute and within seven minutes had restored Wycombe's two goal advantage. A neat chip by Paul Birdseye put Miles in the clear, and he coolly rounded the goalkeeper before firing home with his left foot.

Birdseye, who looked in prime form, then made a dazzling run upfield and unleashed a shot that missed the left post by a fraction. Had it gone in, it must surely have been a candidate for goal of the season.

Harrow took advantage of further slackness in the home defence to pull back a second through David Pearce in injury time.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, G. Borg, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long, G. Toll (sub: P. Miles 82 mins), T. Glynn, J. Jacobs, K. Wilson.

HARROW: L. Currell, R. Metz, C. Rapley, T. Doherty, P. Caines, R. Hilder, G. Lidster, D. Harris, D. Pearce, E. Stein, H. Manoe. Sub: D. Brown (not used).

Referee: M. Topping (Aldershot).

Half-time 2-0. Scorers — Wycombe: Long (25 mins), Borg (pen 35), Miles (89). Harrow: Rapley (71), Pearce (90).

Attendance: 769.